<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

The pending claims are as follows:

1.   (Previously Presented)   A method for providing heterogeneous layered video support, comprising the acts of:

constructing signaling information defining how at least two layers (BS, ES) are to be combined at a decoder; and

transmitting the signaling information along with the at least two layers (BS, ES) in a transport stream to the decoder,

wherein said signaling information is constructed as a plurality of parameter lists,

and wherein each of said plurality of parameter lists define a unique quality of service (QOS) of said transport stream.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said transport stream is an MPEG-2 transport stream.

3-4.   (Cancelled).

5.   (Previously Presented)   A method for providing heterogeneous layered video support, comprising the acts of:

constructing signaling information defining how at least two layers (BS, ES) are to be combined at a decoder; and

transmitting the signaling information along with the at least two layers (BS, ES) in a transport stream to the decoder,

wherein said signaling information is constructed as a parameter list,

wherein said parameter list is comprised of a plurality of parameter values,

and wherein one of said parameter values defines, for a corresponding layer, a DC compensation.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said parameter values define signaling information for each of said at least two layers (BS, ES).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein at least two of said parameter values define, for a corresponding layer, horizontal FIR coefficients for to a filtering operation required to combine the corresponding layer with a reference layer.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein at least two of said parameter values define, for a corresponding layer, vertical FIR coefficients for a filtering operation required to combine the corresponding layer with a reference layer.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein one of said parameter values defines, for a corresponding layer, a video stream encoding type.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein a ratio of two of said parameter values defines, for a corresponding layer, a horizontal scaling factor.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein a ratio of two of said parameter values defines, for a corresponding layer, a vertical scaling factor.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein one of said parameters defines an identifier of the reference layer to be combined with a current layer.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein one of said parameters determines how the current layer is combined with the reference layer.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the current layer is combined with the reference layer in one of a parallel and sequential manner.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5,
wherein one of said parameters defines whether a corresponding
layer contains one of an interlaced or progressive video stream.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1,
wherein the signaling information is embedded by means of MPEG
system descriptors.

19.   (Previously Presented) A method for providing heterogeneous
layered video support, comprising the acts of:

        constructing signaling information defining how at least
two layers (BS, ES) are to be combined at a decoder; and

        transmitting the signaling information along with the at
least two layers (BS, ES) in a program stream to the decoder ,

        wherein said signaling information is constructed as a
plurality of parameter lists,

        and wherein each of said plurality of parameter lists
define a unique quality of service (QOS) of said transport stream.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 19,
wherein said program stream is an MPEG-2 program stream.

21.   (Previously Presented) A method for providing heterogeneous
layered video support, comprising the acts of:

        constructing signaling information defining how at least
two layers (BS, ES) are to be combined at a decoder; and

transmitting the at least two layers (BS, ES) over at least one of an MPEG-2 transport stream, an MPEG-2 program stream and an Internet Protocol (IP) stream to the decoder; and

transmitting the signaling information over at least one of an MPEG-2 transport stream, an MPEG-2 program stream and an Internet Protocol (IP) stream to the decoder,

wherein said signaling information is constructed as a plurality of parameter lists,

and wherein each of said plurality of parameter lists define a unique quality of service (QOS) of said transport stream.

22.   (Previously Presented) A method for providing heterogeneous layered video support, comprising the acts of:

constructing signaling information defining how at least two layers (BS, ES) are to be combined at a decoder;

transmitting the at least two layers (BS, ES) over Internet Protocol using real-time transport protocol (RTP) in a transmission session for each layer; and

transmitting the signaling information within the context of said transmission session,

wherein said signaling information is constructed as a plurality of parameter lists,

and wherein each of said plurality of parameter lists define a unique quality of service (QOS) of said transport stream.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said signaling information is transmitted in-band within said session.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said signaling information is transmitted out-of-band within said session.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said signaling information is transmitted using session description protocol (SDP).